



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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MISSOURI UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND SURCHARGE ADJUSTED

JEFFERSON CITY---To enable the Missouri Universal Service Fund to continue assisting low-income and disabled Missourians in obtaining local telecommunications services, the Missouri Public Service Commission has accepted a recommendation from the Missouri Universal Service Fund Board to adjust the surcharge that appears on monthly customer telephone bills. The Commission's vote was 4-1.

The Missouri Universal Service Fund program is funded through an assessment to Missouri telecommunications carriers. Those carriers then place a monthly "Missouri Universal Service Fund" surcharge on the bills of its residential and business customers.

Currently, Missourians are assessed a surcharge on their monthly telephone bill in the amount of 0.18% of their basic local and long distance charges (on long distance calls made within Missouri). The surcharge will increase to 0.29%. For example, a \$50 bill currently generates a surcharge of approximately 9 cents for that customer. Under this adjustment, the surcharge amount will increase to approximately 14 cents for that same \$50 customer. The change will be reflected in May telephone bills.

In a March 8, 2007, filing with the Commission, the PSC Staff noted that fund receipts have remained steady while fund disbursements continue to increase. Approximately 64,000 low-income and disabled Missourians receive assistance with local telephone service through the fund. In 2005, that number was approximately 46,000.

Customers are urged to contact their local telephone company for more information on the Missouri Universal Service Fund.

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Case No. TO-98-329